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The species differs from *P. Guepini* in habit and in the fewer septa of the spores. This latter feature and the rather long bristles will also separate it from *P. funerea*. I have dedicated the species to its discoverer.

CHARLES H. PECK.

ALBANY.

§ 146. **Variations in *Lomaria* and *Polypodium*.**—Mr. Joseph Howell has sent to me from Oregon some specimens of *Lomaria spicant*, Desv., in which the pinnæ are very strongly serrate—almost incised. These specimens are so strikingly distinct in appearance from the normal form, in which the pinnæ are entire, as almost to justify naming them *var. serratum*?

Mr. Howell has found this form now for two seasons in succession, but as he writes that the plants last season were not nearly as strongly marked as they were the previous year, and as it is not unlikely, therefore, that they may again revert to the normal form, it may be best to await further developments before recognizing a variety. In any case, however, this interesting variation seems worthy of being placed on record.

Mr. Howell has also sent to me a specimen of *Polypodium* that shows how cautious we should be in admitting varieties, especially when based on the evidence of detached fronds.

In this case there are two fronds attached to the same rhizoma, and one of these fronds has entire pinnæ, while in the other the pinnæ are coarsely and deeply serrate. This latter variation is not uncommon, even to deep incisions, in the Pacific *Polypodiums*, those of the southern coast of California being especially prolific in such forms.

Would it not be better in all such cases, when known, to have the specific descriptions include these variations, rather than to recognize them as distinct varieties? GEO. E. DAVENPORT.

BOSTON, February 16, 1877.

§ 147. **On the means of protection in flowers against unwelcome visitors.**—In *Nature*, Jan. 11, Vol. XV., p. 237, is an exceedingly interesting account of a monograph by M. Kerner, of the Zoological-Botanical Society in Vienna, on this subject. We have space but to indicate the tenor of this paper, and to recommend it to the notice of those who seek in “morphological characters a biological significance.” M. Kerner gives an account of the manifold forms which are of use to guard flowers against uninvited guests, wingless insects, for example, who would be of little service in conveying the pollen from one plant to another. One means of protection consists in isolation by water; sometimes collected in the axils of the leaves (from which circumstance perhaps *Aquilegia* gets its name); sometimes surrounding this plant, as in *Polygonum amphibium*. “When, however, the water has run off, and the plant is on dry ground, there develop on the leaves and stalks gland-hairs, which secrete a sticky matter, rendering the flower-bearing axis all smeary, so that access is equally forbidden to the creeping insects. If, now, a plant of *Polygonum*, bearing these gland hairs, be put in the water again, the trichome-tufts, with their sticky material, disappear, and the surface appears once more smooth and even.” Compare Gray’s *Manual* on the varieties, and Hall, in *BULLETIN*, Vol. III., p. 1.